

Questions for Higher Education Finalists
RFP No. 06-1200

For both:

1. The Washington Learns process involves both the Higher Education Advisory Committee and the Steering Committee. Given this somewhat complex committee process, please respond to the following?
 - a. How do you propose to interact with each of these groups, and over what phases of the project?
 - b. How would you go about clarifying roles and responsibilities?
2. Your team has an impressive amount of experience and expertise both in Washington state and nationally performing studies of higher education finance, enrollment capacity and other issues similar to those spelled out in the RFP. How can we be sure that your work for Washington Learns will be innovative and original and not just a rehash of your past work for other clients?
3. Your proposal offered little explanation of how you will evaluate the role of student behavior in the overall assessment of degree production, institutional capacity and finance. Please discuss your view of the importance of understanding student choice as an element of this analysis. If you deem it important, how would you assess it?
4. Please describe your approach to assessing the adequacy and effectiveness of financial aid programs and how these interact with the overall higher education finance system in Washington.
5. With respect to the analysis of workforce needs, please explain what methodology you intend to employ.
6. Questions often arise about study methodology and data integrity, especially when similar studies produce different results. How do you propose to address these concerns and to resolve inconsistencies in the data that will ultimately be used to inform policy recommendations?

For MGT:

1. In your management proposal, you identify the Project Director's role as responsible for the day-to-day management of all project activities, yet indicate that her time commitment to the project is "at least 33 percent".
 - a. Please explain how the project will be managed with as little as one third of the individual's time allotted to the project.
 - b. Also, it appears that the individual identified as Project Director lives out of state. If this is the case, how will she manage the project without raising costs and adding logistical issues?